**Chapter 29 Summary: Little Bird Dancer Brendan’s group**

The chapter starts off with Niska gathering firewood while expressing her concern for Xavier's condition. She see's that he is in the middle of a nightmare huddled up inside the canoe, so she leaves him and sets up a *matatosowin* (sweat lodge) to try and heal Xavier. When he starts to become more conscious she tries to feed him by the fire but he won't eat. She decides to tell him stories to try and provide him with some comfort. She tells him of one winter when they went hunting and Xavier lost Niska and her tracks were covered by the snow and still he pressed on to try and find her. While Niska is talking to him Xavier calls out names of his fellow soldiers and she feeds him a little bit. Xavier tells Niska how angry he is about losing his leg, and Niska tries to comfort him by telling him that he will walk just as well on crutches as he did with his leg. Niska then continues the story about how Xavier found a moose but couldn't kill it with a bow and arrow. So he followed the tracks and it led him to a flock of grouse, the straggler of which he killed and roasted. Which is when Niska came out and told him that she had been with him all along watching. She brought him home to host a feast, where he boasted of his hunt to the fellow first nations there. At the end of the chapter they both go to sleep, and Niska see's Xavier's dream where everyone seems to be running from Elijah.

**Chapter 30 Summary: Dying**

The chapter starts off with Xavier awakening to hear Niska telling him the story from the previous chapter. This leads him to think of Elijah, and how he "cannot escape him". He drifts back to the last days of the war where he tosses his I.D away because he doesn't want to be part of the army anymore. He wants to protest the lieutenants orders but still he follows. Elijah then takes command of the raid, and tells Xavier to come with him while the rest give them cover fire. Xavier finds this as an error and judgement and thinks that the only reason why Elijah would order that is he wants to be alone with him. This scares Xavier and makes him wonder why Elijah wants him alone. His "body reacts against his will" and he goes with Elijah, who takes him to the bottom of a crater in the battlefield. Elijah asks for Xavier's mauser to shoot someone, but he says no because he wants to keep his weapon. So Elijah decides they will both shoot. But then while they're lighting cigars to attract the sniper, a shell explodes above them. Xavier yells at Elijah that they have to get out of there, and he faintly makes out Elijah saying something, saying "we both can't leave." Elijah pushes Xavier to the ground and reaches into his jacket, but Xavier starts to choke him. Another shell comes in and knocks them off each other. Elijah asks Xavier if he has gone too far, and then begins to choke him. Xavier hits him with the butt of his mauser and stabs him through the throat with it. Xavier then takes all his possessions and his ID. But as he leaves the crater, he is sent flying into the air by an explosion. He awakes in the medical bay of a ship being called Elijah and being told the war is over. He tries to explain he is Xavier but the nurses don't understand, he thinks it's a cruel joke being played on him by Elijah in the afterlife. While his leg heals he gets addicted to morphine, soon enough the nurse gives him the last bag and he is sent off.

**Quotes**

**Chapter 29:**

"I asked you to tell a story of your first hunt, your faced blushed but it was from pride. You told the tale of your day, how you lost me but continued on, how it seemed that the moose snorted laughter at you on the frozen lake, how you worried about *windigos* getting you, and how you came upon the grouse and watched their dance.

This quote is significant because it is the story that Niska uses to get Xavier through his morphine withdrawal. It also foreshadows the whole plot, getting separated from Niska (going to war), fighting in the war, worrying about Elijah killing him and then eventually killing Elijah, and when he flies at the end. The quote explains one of Xavier's proudest moments and that's why it helps him get through withdrawal. The really happy memory powers him through it to get his mind off the pain.

**Chapter 30**:

"'Are we not best friends Xavier?' he asks 'are we not best friends and great hunters?' He is my old friend again. I see the hurt child in him now. I nod. 'You were always the better hunter,' he says. He reaches for me. 'It has gone too far, hasn't it,' he says 'I've gone too far, haven't I,' His words wake my body. His hands reach for my throat..." p 369

This quote is significant because it starts the end of Xavier's fight with Elijah. Elijah realises he is killable, so he tries to appeal to Xavier by acting like his former self, like Xavier's best friend again. It shows off the underlying windigo theme within the story. Since Xavier is a descendant of a windigo killer family he would have to get rid of windigos, which Elijah slowly turns into throughout the book. The quote also showcases Xavier's reluctance to kill Elijah, but he knows it has to be done. He still acknowledges the fact that they are practically brothers, but Elijah has strayed down the wrong path.

**Questions**

**1.** Why do you think Elijah was upset when Xavier got mad and said "would you rather I kill them, Corporal" page 346?

**2.** Why do you think Elijah is crying after killing the German in the meadow?

**3.** Why did Niska remind Xavier of the circle?